

Brussels, 12 January 2011

Fitness for Transport Guidelines Provide Animal Welfare Boost

Today sees the official publication of the “*Guidelines to assess fitness for transport of adult bovine animals*”, prepared by Eurogroup for animals, Animals’ Angels, UECBV (European Livestock and Meat Trading Union), FVE (Federation of Veterinarians of Europe), IRU (International Road Transport Union) and ELT (European Livestock Transporters), a document that will be presented during the National Seminar on Transport Controls for Official Veterinarians in Berlin.

These guidelines are designed to provide easy to understand help and advice to professionals involved in the transport of adult bovines and aim to improve animal welfare throughout the transport process. The Guidelines are extremely visual and use photographs and simple texts to help all operators decide on the suitability of an adult bovine animal for transport.

Improving the welfare of animals during their transport is in everyone’s interest. Transporting animals that are unfit not only causes animal suffering but could also lead to penalties, financial losses and the withdrawal of the authorisation of the transporter and/or the driver as well. The Guidelines do not represent the real situation in Europe today but provide a comprehensive list of situations that may occur and the conditions that may result in an animal being classed as unfit to transport to help operators ensure animal welfare is constantly maximised.

The Guidelines are available in English, German, Spanish and French. Italian and Portuguese versions will be ready before the end of the month and other language versions are currently being considered. If you are a professional, involved in the animal transport sector you can request your personal copy from the websites of any of the organisations listed above or by sending your request to info@uecbv.eu.

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Notes

1. Eurogroup for Animals represents animal welfare organisations of nearly all EU Member States. Since its launch in 1980, the organisation has succeeded in encouraging the EU to adopt higher legal standards for animal protection. Eurogroup represents public opinion through its membership organisations across the Union, and has both the scientific and technical expertise to provide authoritative advice on issues relating to animal welfare. For more information about Eurogroup, visit www.eurogroupforanimals.org.